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OTTAWA metro®

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

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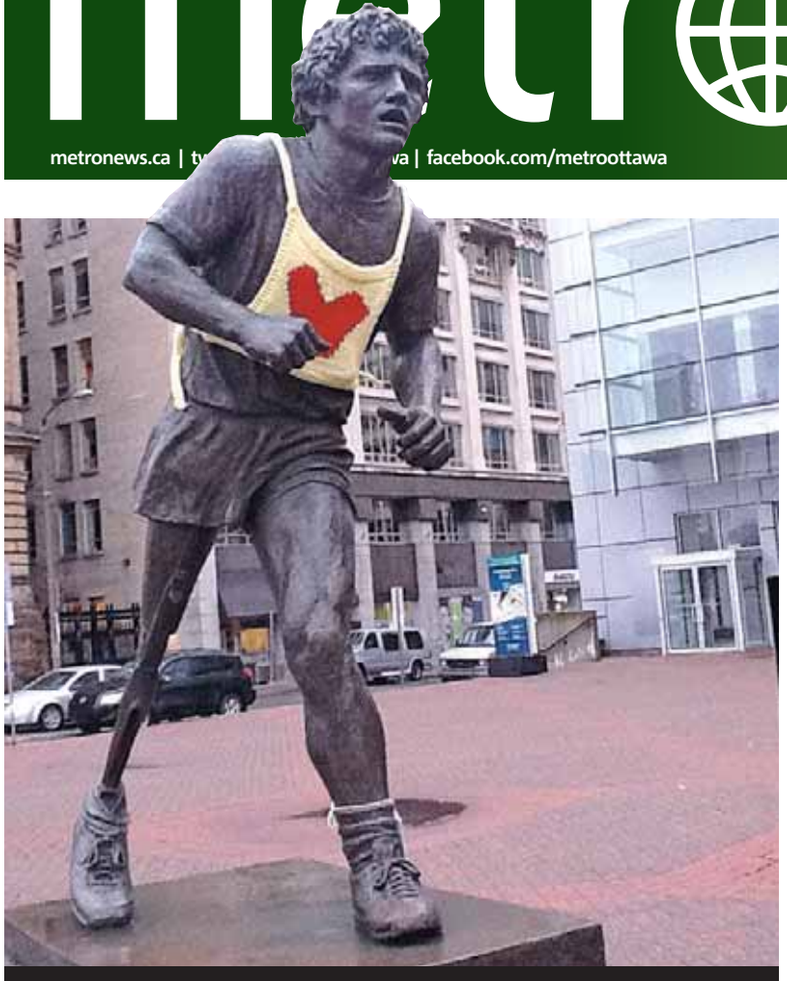

LOVING TRIBUTE

A yarn bomber's tribute to Canadian hero Terry Fox was short-lived on Tuesday. The woolen running bib was quickly removed from the statue on Wellington Street. Speaking on condition of anonymity, the knitter — who last year dressed the young lovers of Lea Vivot's Secret Bench sculpture — said she was disappointed her gesture hadn't lasted longer. "Everyone loves Terry Fox, that's what the heart symbolizes," she said. "I don't know why people think everything must be so boring and serious." CONTRIBUTED

Dad to cops: My girl needs Amber Alert

Worried. Disappearance weighing on family as they question police's investigative tactics

An Ottawa father who hasn't seen his daughter in more than a week fears for her safety and wants Ottawa police to issue an Amber Alert to help bring her home.

Jasmine Olleik, 9, was last seen Nov. 28 at 3 p.m. walking with a woman and getting into a blue four-door sedan on Blohm Drive, according to Ottawa police. Police said the girl is believed to be in the company of her mother, Nina Grebenschikov.

Jamal Olleik, the girl's father, said he has sole custody rights. He said Grebenschikov has not been answering her cellphone.

The night before Jasmine went missing, Olleik took his daughter to see an animated film at a local theatre. She was in a "happy" mood, he said.

Jasmine Olleik, 9, was last seen on Nov. 28. CONTRIBUTED

"I haven't heard her voice since then," he said Tuesday. "I miss my daughter. Every time, I hear her voice in my head."

Based on information from his daughter's friends who saw her at school the day she went missing, he suspects Grebenschikov is the woman who took Jasmine. He added it would be unlikely his daughter would get into a car with a stranger.

He separated from his wife in 2007 and she moved to Toronto a couple of months ago, he said.

Police spokesperson Henri Lanctot would not disclose details of the investigation, but said investigators have to look at information from "all sides" before they decide to issue an alert.

Jasmine is described as white, five-foot-one, with a slim build, short dark brown hair and brown eyes. She was wearing a pink winter jacket and pink and brown boots the day she went missing.

Police describe Jasmine's mother as white, 42 years old, five-foot-seven, weighing 125 pounds, with auburn hair and hazel eyes. She may have recently dyed her hair blond.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

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Car crashed into backyard — again — says homeowner

Highway 417. Driver escaped without injury, T-boned car was severely damaged

GRAHAM LANKTREE
graham.lanktree@metronews.ca

Abe Khouri's quiet morning was shattered Tuesday as a car careened off Highway 417 and smashed through the sound barrier that separates his backyard from the busy highway.

"As far as I'm concerned, the backyard is unusable," said Khouri as he surveyed the crumpled corrugated-steel divider and muddy tire tracks scarring his ripped-up yard. "My wife doesn't want to use the back door anymore. She heard a screech and a bang. She's distraught. She could have been standing in the backyard when this happened."

Khouri, who was out during the crash, said that the previous owners told him this isn't the first time a car has landed in the Hintonburg home's yard and that calls he made to the province for a better barrier have gone unanswered.

Khouri said he wants a concrete barrier to be built on the highway shoulder to add an extra layer of protection.

"When I first moved here two years ago I noticed that there's a cement barricade here and there, about 30 to 40 feet away, but no cement barricade to prevent this sort of thing from happening."

Ontario Provincial Police said the Volkswagen Jetta that landed in Khouri's yard was T-boned by another car that spun out of control after it was cut off between the Parkdale and Island Park exits in rush hour traffic. The Jetta was pushed up a grassy embankment that meets the highway and into the Helena Street yard.

"There were no injuries, but there was severe damage to the Jetta," said OPP Const. Rheal Levac. "It's probably a write-off."

Crews from the Ministry of Transportation visited the site Tuesday afternoon to determine if a concrete barrier should be set up, said ministry spokesman Bob Nichols. "We'll make that decision as quickly as possible," he said, adding that barriers are placed on a case-by-case basis.

Shaken, Khouri said he will be hesitant to cut his lawn next year for fear of being crushed if a barrier is not put up. "I was planning on installing a pool," he said.

"Imagine (if) we were sitting here in the backyard having a drink."

Abe Khouri stands in the backyard of his Helena Street home in Hintonburg, where he says a car from the Queensway broke through a sound barrier and into the yard for a second time. GRAHAM LANKTREE/METRO

Rideau Transit on track for LRT contract

Mayor Jim Watson is expected to announce on Wednesday morning that Rideau Transit Group, a consortium led by ACS Infrastructure Canada, is being recommended for the $2.1-billion light-rail contract.

Watson will be joined by outgoing Premier Dalton McGuinty and Royal Galipeau, MP for Ottawa-Orleans, at Ottawa City Hall to make the announcement.

Watson refused on Tuesday to comment on reports that Rideau Transit Group is getting the nod.

"We'll be doing that tomorrow, in the morning," Watson said. "We made a commitment to our other funding partners that we'd release all of the information at the same time, and we're going to do that tomorrow at a press conference."

Councillors were briefed on the announcement throughout the day Tuesday, but said they were not told which consortium is being recommended. ACS did not return a request for an interview.

The Rideau Transit Group includes beleaguered engineering firm SNC-Lavalin. Lavalin's former CEO Pierre Duhaime was taken into police custody last week on allegations of fraud in connection to a multibillion-dollar hospital in Montreal.

Wednesday's announcement will kick off a 13-day showcase of the light-rail project at locations across the city.

Council will have their final vote on the project on Dec. 19, with construction expected to begin in 2013.

ALEX BOUTILIER/METRO

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ZPark. Invest Ottawa looking to connect business with China

The head of the city's economic-development outfit says there will soon be a new way to help Ottawa businesses break into the Chinese market.

Invest Ottawa CEO Bruce Lazenby said representatives from ZPark, Beijing's answer to Silicon Valley, are moving into offices at Invest Ottawa's Aberdeen Street location.

"(China recognizes) the level of innovation that happens here in Ottawa. And when I was over there in May, we talked about them establishing a small research park here," said Lazenby after a meeting of the finance and economic-development committee Tuesday.

The goal is to take Ottawa-based businesses and connect them with Chinese investors and the Chinese market.

Need for connection

"China is very aggressive in creating new companies, and they recognize they need to have international connections."

Invest Ottawa CEO Bruce Lazenby

The operation will start small — ZPark is taking out 150 square metres in Invest Ottawa's building. A formal announcement on the Ottawa research centre is expected next week. **ALEX BOUTILIER/METRO**

Booze. Private sales would boost biz: Quickie manager

On the Gatineau side of the Ottawa River, Chris Wilcox's Quickie convenience stores pull in 30 per cent more sales than his Ottawa outlets thanks to their ability to sell beer and wine.

Access to alcohol closer to the home has not resulted in mass chaos, said Wilcox, general manager of the Quickie chain, as he spoke in favour of a suggestion from Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak to expand Ontarians options for buying beer, spirits and wine.

"There, it's an everyday experience, and there aren't a bunch of people running around with their hair on fire with no clothes on," Wilcox said Tuesday.

"I think you can still cross the bridge and you'll find that people have pretty normal lives over there, other than the fact they don't have to drive 100 miles to get to a Beer Store."

Social fabric still intact

"There, it's an everyday experience, and there aren't a bunch of people running around with their hair on fire with no clothes on."

Chris Wilcox, general manager of Quickie Convenience store chain, on being able to buy booze at convenience stores in Quebec

Hudak told reporters on Tuesday that while he wouldn't cut taxes on alcohol, he would like to see it available for sale in corner stores and grocery shops. The Opposition leader also said he is in favour of a partial or full sale of the LCBO.

"I think it is time to have LCBO stores go into private hands," said Hudak. **ALEX BOUTILIER/METRO**

Ottawa's Stéphane Joanisse plans to teach conversational French via Skype as he travels South America starting Dec. 10. GRAHAM LANKTREE/METRO

Area man to travel world teaching French via Skype

Innovation.
Court clerk turned entrepreneur touts flexibility, availability of online lessons

GRAHAM LANKTREE
graham.lanktree@metronews.ca

This Christmas, Stéphane Joanisse plans to teach French while he tours Mexico and South America. The thing is, his students are in Ottawa.

"It's conversational French via Skype," the francophone said of the classes set to launch Monday. "The fact that you can see the person you're speaking with is amazing. I travel quite a bit and started using Skype four years ago when I travelled through Spain and Morocco."

Joanisse, a former clerk at Ottawa's Elgin Street courthouse, said he got the idea to fund his travels through teaching after stumbling upon similar services online.

"When I worked at the court, lawyers and judges would often approach me and ask, 'How do you say such and such word in French?'" he said, adding his first students will be lawyers.

The beauty of Skype, said criminal-defence lawyer John Hale, is that student and teacher can continue their lessons as long as they share an Internet connection, no matter where in the world they happen to find themselves.

"I'm from Montreal and was pretty bilingual at one point," said Hale. "I can converse with clients, but I'm usually left searching for words. I would like to get my French to a point where I can use it in court."

This week, Hale opened a satellite office in the town of l'Orignal near Hawkesbury in eastern Ontario and said he needs to brush up on his French.

"You can be self-conscious when speaking around some francophones," he said. "I know Stéphane is easygoing and he'll correct me on my grammar and pronunciation. I'm really looking forward to it. There are a couple others in my office who I expect will be learning from him as well."

Joanisse said he hopes to expand his $40-per-hour lessons beyond the circle of lawyers in the new year.

If you want lessons

- Get in touch with Stéphane Joanisse via email at sjoanisse1@gmail.com.

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Algonquin College. Students petition city hall to discontinue age cap for discount bus passes

Students at Algonquin College are throwing their support behind an online petition demanding the City of Ottawa remove its age cap for monthly student bus passes.

The current fare system allows students 19 years old or younger to buy a regular monthly bus pass for $76.75 or an express pass for $90.25.

But for students 20 and older, there is an increase of up to $28.75 per month.

Signatures

5,000

By Tuesday evening, the online petition had logged more than 5,000 signatures demanding the city remove age restrictions for monthly student bus passes.

David Corson, president of the Algonquin Student Association, said he planned to file a human-rights complaint in October to protest the age cap, but there was a conflict of interest with the group's lawyer.

Now the group has found new representation, and the fight with city hall is back on with thousands of supporters backing them.

Corson sent a letter to students Monday asking for signatures to oppose the age cap. At the time, the letter said, the petition had amassed just under 2,000 signatures. At press time Tuesday evening, the website had logged more than 5,000.

"We're trying to get our students taken care of and respected and treated fairly," he said, adding that a petition could help fast-track that goal.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

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Stem-cell breakthrough may help fight lung disease

Research. Cells pulled from spinal cords may help premature babies with ragged lungs

GRAHAM LANKTREE
graham.lanktree@metronews.ca

Doctors will soon use stem cells to treat a disease untreatable for the past 45 years and protect the lungs of premature babies and adults with lung disease, says new research from the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario.

"These cells know where to repair. There is huge potential for treatment," said Dr. Bernard Thébaud of his promising work published Tuesday in the medical journal Thorax. "Working at CHEO will allow us to complete the steps that will bring us to clinical studies."

Quoted

"I'm very excited about this. I truly believe this can become a breakthrough. I don't want to over-promise, but the potential is there."

Dr. Bernard Thébaud on experiments that found the human umbilical cord contains cells that protect lungs from disease

Over the past 50 years, when premature babies are delivered, they need to be kept on ventilators to help their developing lungs to breathe. However, the machines cause damage to their lungs in the form of bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD), which they carry through life.

"They have to go to the hospital more often because they have breathing problems," said Dr. Thébaud of the disease, which afflicts 10,000 premature babies every year. "It could be a viral infection or asthma-like symptoms, and they may see their lungs aging quicker."

Using rats as a model, Dr. Thébaud and his team of researchers were able to protect newborn rat lungs with an injection of a serum derived from stem cells from a human umbilical cord.

"These cells look at the mess, be it too much cell death or cell inflammation, and know exactly what to do," he said.

The cells could not only be used to treat newborns but also adults with other lung diseases, including premature babies who are now grown up and facing the long-term effects of BPD.

"Babies as premature as 24 weeks now survive, but this has raised new problems. Now we're talking about quality of survival," he said.

Dr. Bernard Thébaud will join the Sprott Centre for Stem Cell Research this fall to develop new stem-cell therapies for premature babies and create clinical trials. GRAHAM LANKTREE/METRO

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West Bank. Israeli settlement proposals cause tensions to rise

The Palestinians will ask the UN Security Council to call for an Israeli settlement freeze, President Mahmoud Abbas and his advisers decided Tuesday, as part of an escalating showdown over Israel's new plans to build thousands more homes on war-won land in and around Jerusalem.

Such construction will destroy any lingering hopes of setting up a Palestinian state, Abbas aides warned, as international anger over the settlement construction snowballed.

Israel announced the new plans after the UN last week recognized a state of Palestine in the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem — lands Israel occupied in 1967 — as a non-member observer.

The plans include 3,000 more homes for Jews in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, as well as preparations for construction of an especially sensitive project near Jerusalem, known as E-1.

Separately, Israel is moving forward with two major settlement projects in east Jerusalem. Israel would build more than 4,200 apartments in the two areas, Ramat Shlomo and Givat Hamatos.

Israeli settlement construction lies at the heart of a four-year breakdown in peace talks, and was a major factor behind the Palestinians' UN statehood bid. Since 1967, half a million Israelis have settled in the West Bank and east Jerusalem.

The Israeli plans for Jerusalem and nearby West Bank areas "are the most dangerous in the history of settlement expansion and apartheid," Abbas and senior members of the PLO and his Fatah movement said in a statement Tuesday evening. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Peace at stake

A Palestinian official says construction would kill peace talks between the two feuding nations.

- Some Palestinian officials have raised the possibility of asking the European Union to reconsider its trade agreements with Israel.

Two versions. U.S. denies captured drone was flying in Iranian airspace

Iran claimed Tuesday it had captured a U.S. drone after it entered Iranian airspace over the Persian Gulf — even showing an image of a purportedly downed craft on state TV — but the U.S. navy said all its unmanned aircraft in the region were "fully accounted for."

The conflicting accounts still leave the possibility that the drone claimed by Iran, a Boeing-designed ScanEagle, could have been plucked from the sea in the past and unveiled for maximum effect following escalating tensions over U.S. surveillance missions in the Gulf. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"The U.S. navy has fully accounted for all unmanned air vehicles operating in the Middle East region"

Cmdr. Jason Salata, U.S. navy

Protesters chant slogans and wave national flags against President Morsi in Tahrir Square in Cairo on Tuesday. MAYA ALLERUZZO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protest in Tahrir threatens rule

False spring? Defiant crowds chant against president's seizure of augmented power

More than 100,000 Egyptians protested outside the presidential palace in Cairo on Tuesday, fuelling tensions over Islamist leader Mohammed Morsi's seizure of nearly unrestricted powers and the adoption by his allies of a controversial draft constitution.

The outpouring of anger across the Egyptian capital, the Mediterranean port of Alexandria and a string of other cities pointed to a prolonged standoff between the president and a newly united opposition.

Morsi's opponents, long fractured by bickering and competing egos, have been re-energized since he announced decrees last month that place him above oversight of any kind, including by the courts, and provide immunity to two key bodies dominated by his allies: the 100-member panel drafting the constitution and parliament's upper chamber.

The decrees have led to charges that Morsi's powers turned him into a "new pharaoh."

The large turnout in Tuesday's protests — dubbed "The Last Warning" by organizers — signalled sustained momentum for the opposition, which brought out at least 200,000 protesters to Cairo's Tahrir Square a week ago and a comparable number on Friday to demand that Morsi rescind the decrees.

The huge scale of the protests have dealt a blow to the legitimacy of the new constitution, which Morsi's opponents contend allows religious authorities too much influence over legislation, threatens to restrict freedom of expression and opens the door to Islamist control over day-to-day life.

What the revived opposition has yet to make clear is what it will do next: campaign for a "no" vote on the draft constitution in a nationwide referendum set for Dec. 15, or call on Egyptians to boycott the vote. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"The same way we brought down Mubarak in 18 days, we can bring down Morsi in less."

Ziad Oleimi, prominent rights activist, speaking to the crowds over loudspeaker

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Not guilty! Soldier, wife share a long embrace

Kandahar blast killed one. Reservist cleared of manslaughter and breach of duty but found guilty on two other charges

A Canadian reservist has been found not guilty of manslaughter in an Afghanistan training accident that killed one soldier and injured four others more than two years ago.

A military jury at a court martial in Calgary also acquitted Maj. Darryl Watts of breach of duty.

But the five jurors, all senior officers in the Canadian Forces, convicted him of unlawfully causing bodily harm and negligent performance of military duty.

Watts, who stood at attention while the verdict was being read, shared a long embrace with his wife once the court had adjourned.

The courtroom at the Mewata Armoury in Calgary, where the trial was held, was jammed with military personnel.

The maximum sentence for unlawfully causing bodily harm is imprisonment of up to 10 years. Negligent performance of duty can bring dismissal with disgrace from the Canadian Forces.

Cpl. Josh Baker died when a Claymore anti-personnel mine loaded with 700 steel balls peppered the platoon on a practice range near Kandahar city in February 2010.

The prosecution had argued that Watts, the platoon leader, turned a blind eye to safety standards and abdicated his duty as a leader when he handed over responsibility to his second-in-command, who was an expert on the weapon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"I feel very strongly in the man's innocence."

Defence lawyer Balfour Der.

Maj. Darryl Watts, pictured heading to court last month, has been found not guilty of manslaughter in a fatal Afghanistan training accident.

LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

UN aftermath. After big debate, Tories won't cut aid to the Palestinians

The Harper government pledged Tuesday night to preserve millions of dollars in Canadian aid to the Palestinians.

The issue was discussed during a 90-minute meeting in Ottawa involving Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird, International Co-operation Minister Julian Fantino and four envoys called home for talks.

Baird had recalled them to discuss a response to the Palestinians' new United Nations status.

Baird's spokesperson said Tuesday night that Canada's five-year, $300-million commitment would be maintained when it expires in March. The money goes toward strengthening the Palestinian justice system, economic development, health and education.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

World outsiders

Canada strongly opposed the Palestinians' successful effort last week to win elevated status at the UN.

- **Almost alone.** Canada was one of only nine countries to vote against the Palestinians in the 193-nation General Assembly.

Health Canada acts

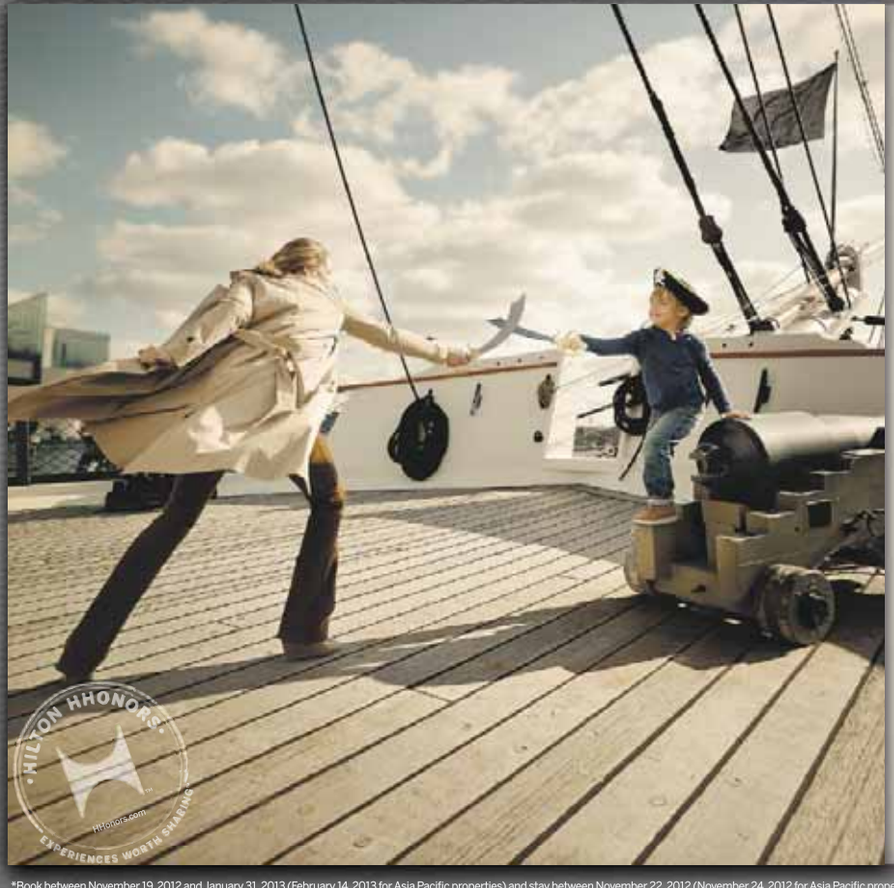
Food testing lab's licence suspended

Health Canada has yanked the licence of a Toronto-area chemical testing laboratory.

The watchdog says it found falsified results in tests involving medications, natural food products and food additives. It says in some cases, Chemi Pharmaceutical did not test drug ingredients.

The agency said there is no evidence the health of Canadians has been compromised. Chemi Pharmaceutical did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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John McAfee, left, with his lawyer, Telesforo Guerra, answers questions at a restaurant in Guatemala City on Tuesday. McAfee has been identified as a "person of interest" in the killing of his neighbour. MOISES CASTILLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

John McAfee seeks asylum in Guatemala

On the lam. Founder of anti-virus company fled Belize fearing death in police custody

Software company founder John McAfee has surfaced in public for the first time in weeks, saying on Tuesday that he plans to ask for asylum in Guatemala because he fears persecution in Belize.

McAfee spoke to The Associated Press in a restaurant near a high-end hotel where he is staying in Guatemala City after sneaking out of neighbouring Belize. Police in Belize have called him a person of interest in the November slaying of a fellow American expat.

McAfee says he is being persecuted by the Belizean government and has sensitive information about official corruption in the country where he lived in a compound guarded by aggressive dogs and armed guards.

"Now that I'm here, I can speak freely. I can speak openly," McAfee said.

He said he plans to petition the Guatemalan government to allow him to stay. He added that he fears he will be killed if he turns himself in for questioning in Belize.

"Belize does not have a good track record of providing safety when they ask to question you," he said. "I felt much more secure crossing the border into a country that had laws that were backed by the justice system." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Real-world security

"I need a safe place where I can actually speak out."

Anti-virus company founder John McAfee

Royal Family. Boy or girl, Kate's baby will take the throne: U.K. government

The business of monarchy has always been stacked in favour of men. Not anymore — or so the British government promises.

The first child of Prince William and his wife, Kate, will be born a king or a queen in waiting, under changes to succession rules designed to overturn centuries of tradition and give royal daughters the same rights as sons.

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg pledged on Tuesday that the law on succession would be changed at the "earliest opportunity." He said "whether the baby is a boy or a girl, they will have an equal claim to the throne."

"Born to rule, be it a boy or a girl" proclaimed the Daily Mail, which noted that the baby had "already made royal and constitutional history" even before it is born.

Not so fast, caution others.

A royal saga needs a touch of uncertainty, and experts point out that despite politicians' promises, the law giving males primacy in succession has not yet been changed — and the clock is ticking.

Britain's Prince William leaves a hospital in London on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"We know that the wishes of politicians are written in water," said historian Robert Lacey. "Law only becomes law when the law is made — and the law has not been made."

Last year, the leaders of Britain and the 15 former colonies that have the queen as their head of state informally agreed to establish new rules giving female children equal status with males in the order of succession — something that will require legal changes in each country. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Magnetosphere

Scientists discover radioactive chirps from the cosmos

Twin spacecraft have captured the clearest sounds yet from Earth's radiation belts — and they mimic the chirping of birds.

NASA's Van Allen Probes have been exploring the radiation belts surrounding Earth for just three months. But already, they've collected measurements of high-energy particles and radio waves in unprecedented detail. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stay curious

NASA hopes to clone Curiosity

NASA says it wants to launch another mega-rover to Mars modelled on the wildly popular Curiosity.

The space agency said Tuesday that the spacecraft will be built from Curiosity's spare parts. It would use the novel landing system that got the car-size rover to Mars in August. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Indonesia. Divorced via text message, second wife, 17, 'not a virgin'

Hundreds of Indonesians rallied Tuesday to demand a district chief's resignation after revelations of his text-message divorce to a teenage girl four days after their marriage.

The incident has sparked public outrage.

Aceng Fikri, chief of Garut District in West Java province, took 17-year-old Fani Oktora as his second wife in July.

But Fikri, 40, quickly divorced her via a short text message, alleging Oktora was not a virgin when they married as he had expected. He said he spent about $26,000 on the wedding.

Students and rights activists in Garut spit and trampled on pictures of Fikri on Tuesday before burning them outside the local council building.

It was the second consecutive day of protests against Fikri, whose case came into the spotlight last week after a picture was posted on the Internet.

On Monday, dozens of people rallied in front of his house and the council building.

Divorce by text

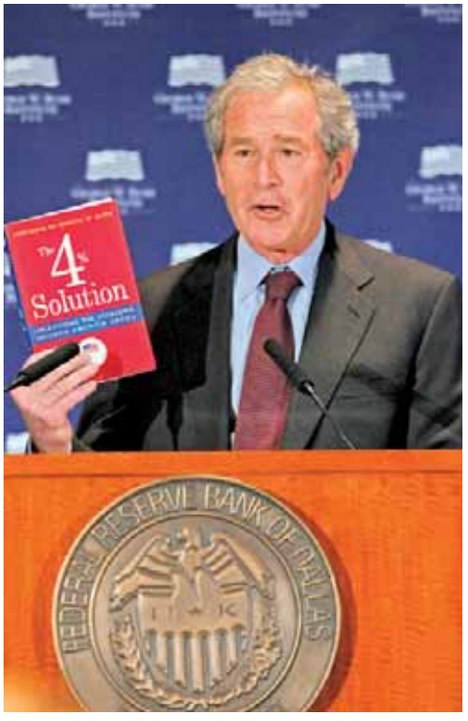
Some Muslims believe in an Islamic ritual allowing men to end a marriage by telling their wives they divorce them. However, divorce by text message is uncommon in moderate Indonesia.

Late Tuesday, the local council issued a recommendation for Fikri's dismissal, but the process will have to wait for a verdict by the Supreme Court.

Also on Tuesday, Oktora, accompanied by her lawyers, filed a complaint with police in the capital, Jakarta, accusing Fikri of domestic violence by holding her captive after the wedding and fraudulence for declaring that he was a widower.

A lawyer representing Fikri said they would file a complaint of defamation against Oktora, whom he said had signed an agreement saying she would not complain about the marriage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Bush talks immigration

Former U.S. President George W. Bush holds up a book Tuesday as he gives opening remarks at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas for a conference titled Immigration and 4% Growth: How Immigrants grow the U.S. Economy. The conference was in Dallas. LM OTERO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

California. Judge upholds ban on therapy to change sexual orientation

For the second time in two days, a federal judge in California has issued a decision on the state's first-of-its-kind law prohibiting licensed psychotherapists from trying to change the sexual orientations of gay minors.

U.S. District Judge Kimberly Mueller issued a ruling Tuesday that will allow the ban on "conversion" therapy to take effect on January 1.

Her ruling came in a lawsuit filed by four counsellors, two families, a professional organization for practitioners and a Christian therapist group seeking to overturn the law.

On Monday night, Mueller's colleague, U.S. District Judge William Shubb, handed down a somewhat competing ruling.

Shubb granted a request by two mental health providers and a former patient to be immune from the law until their lawsuit seeking to overturn it on U.S. First Amendment grounds can be heard next year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tuscan vineyard

16,500 gallons of prized wine lost

It's suspected that vandals have dumped almost the entire 2007-2012 production of one of Italy's most sought-after wines Soldera Brunello di Montalcino. Vineyard owner Giuseppe Soldera said Tuesday only "a little bit" remained of the production, and he wasn't sure what he would do with it. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Carolina

Warden investigated

The warden at a prison in the U.S. state of North Carolina where six inmates allege correctional officers forced them to rub hot sauce on their genitals has been suspended pending the outcome of an investigation. A second employee also has been reassigned.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Reconsider rocket launch, UN chief urges North Korea

Ballistic missile program. Pyongyang announced Monday it planned to launch a satellite sometime between Dec. 10 and 22

A satellite image shows the Sohae Satellite Launch Station in North Korea. DIGITALGLOBE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon strongly urged North Korea on Tuesday to reconsider its decision to launch a rocket which would be "a clear violation" of UN sanctions.

The UN chief also urged Pyongyang to suspend all activities related to its ballistic-missile program, UN spokesman Martin Nesirky said.

The UN Security Council has imposed two rounds of sanctions on North Korea following its nuclear tests and a 2009 resolution orders the country not to conduct any launch using ballistic missile technology.

"Such a launch would also heighten tension in the region," Ban's spokesman said.

It would be North Korea's second launch attempt under leader Kim Jong Un, who took power following his father Kim Jong Il's death nearly a year ago. The embarrassing misfire of its last rocket eight months ago earned the country widespread international condemnation.

Ban also called on the North to re-establish a moratorium on missile launches, as required by the Security Council, Nesirky said.

The secretary general, a former South Korean foreign minister, renewed his call on North Korean authorities "to work towards building confidence with neighbouring countries and improving the life of its people," he said.

"He reaffirms his commitment to working for peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and helping the people in the DPRK," Nesirky said, using the initials of the country's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The United States considers North Korea's rocket launches to be veiled covers for tests of technology for long-range missiles designed to strike the United States.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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FOUR OTHER LOCATIONS IN MONTREAL

NHL lockout causing both pain and gain for business community: Report

Host cities. Drinking establishments near arenas hardest hit as fans spend elsewhere

The NHL lockout is forcing some merchants near hockey arenas into the penalty box but giving power plays to others further afield as fans spend their money at alternative eating and drinking holes, says a report issued Tuesday.

The report by credit- and debit-card processor Moneris found that overall spending at venues near arenas in Winnipeg, Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal and Calgary has decreased more than 11 per cent from a year ago on a game day.

Drinking establishments are being hit the hardest with business falling nearly 35 per cent. Restaurants are taking a nearly 11 per cent hit, followed by fast-food outlets, which are down almost seven per cent compared to a game day in 2011.

Edmonton fast-food outlets are facing the largest impact, with business falling 27 per cent.

Spending near Montreal's Bell Centre is down more than 21 per cent, followed by a 17 per cent drop in business near Toronto's Air Canada Centre.

Merchants away from arenas, however, have been benefiting from the 11-week labour dispute, with spending up 5.4 per cent from a game day in 2011.

"While overall spending at establishments near hockey arenas is down, it would appear that Canadians are simply choosing to stick closer to home," said president and CEO Jim Baumgartner.

Spending in bars further afield is up nearly 19 per cent while fast-food business grew 11.5 per cent and was up nearly five per cent in restaurants, in line with overall spending increases in the third quarter.

Moneris surveyed the gameday spending of about 750 of its customers in the hockey host cities.

"The ones that were affected very heavily are the ones that are in the same two postal codes as the arenas," vice-president Malcolm Flowler said in an interview.

Molson Coors Brewing Co. and owners of the La Cage aux Sports chain have both recently noted that the labour dispute has reduced revenues.

As a league sponsor, Molson Coors said it will seek financial redress from the NHL once the dispute is resolved.

The Montreal Canadiens won't discuss the financial impact of the lockout, but vice-president Donald Beauchamp noted that all 100 employees, including president Geoff Molson, have taken a 20 per cent pay cut by working four days a week. Some 1,000 part-time employees who normally work during home games now only work during other events at the arena.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

0.1%

BMO Nesbitt Burns deputy chief economist Douglas Porter has estimated that a cancelled NHL season would trim just 0.1 per cent from the gross domestic product as people spend their hockey money elsewhere.

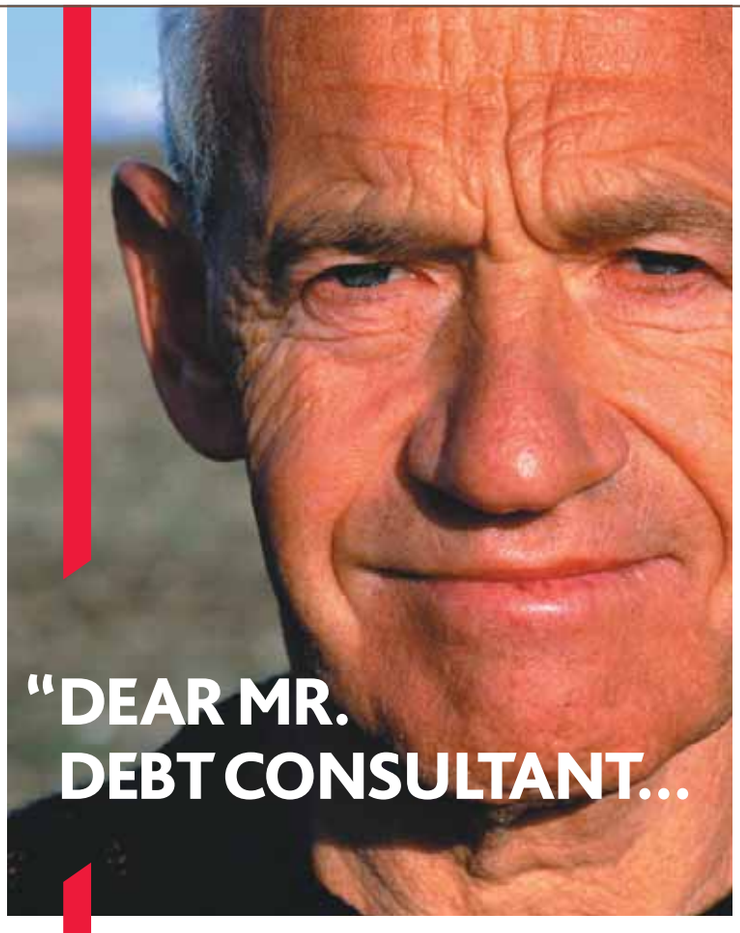
Scotiabank Place appears in this file photo. A report by Moneris found that while spending near hockey venues has dropped since the lockout began, merchants away from arenas have benefited. DOUGTONE/CREATIVE COMMONS

Lockout impact

27% Edmonton fast-food outlets are facing the largest impact, with business falling 27 per cent.

21% Spending near Montreal's Bell Centre is down more than 21 per cent.

17% Business near Toronto's Air Canada Centre has dropped by 17 per cent.



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hoping to make all these stressful calls stop. But they didn't stop,
and did you know I'm being sued now?
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Most of all, I've learned not all debt solutions are created equal.

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Ottawa

BoC maintains interest rates will need to rise

The Bank of Canada is holding fast to its view that the economy is poised for a comeback and that interest rates will need to rise at some point in the future.

The central bank offered no surprises in its Tuesday interest rate announcement, keeping the policy setting rate at one per cent for the 18th consecutive announcement date.

Bank governor Mark Carney kept in place his future guidance that in all likelihood rates are more likely to rise in the future than fall, or even stay the same.

"Although underlying momentum appears slightly softer than previously anticipated, the pace of economic growth is expected to pick up through 2013," the bank said in its policy statement. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Washington

Plans for avoiding fiscal cliff far apart

Both President Barack Obama and Republicans in Congress now have laid out some specifics of their vision for stepping back from the "fiscal cliff" budget crisis, but the plans are vastly different and leave politicians far from agreement with a deadline less than a month away.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Calgary

Canadian Pacific to cut 4,500 jobs

Canadian Pacific says it will eliminate some 4,500 jobs by 2016 and expects more than a third of those cuts to come by year-end as the struggling railroad works to bring down its operating costs. The Calgary-based company said reductions will be achieved through job cuts, attrition and reducing contractors.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian Pacific Rail locomotives sit idle at the company's Port Coquitlam yard east of Vancouver in May. Canadian Pacific announced job cuts Tuesday morning. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Market Minute

DOLLAR 100.68¢ (+0.17¢)

TSX 12,137.18 (-32.56)

OIL $88.50 US (-59¢)

GOLD $1,695.80 US (-$25.30)

Natural gas: $3.54 US (-5¢)
Dow Jones: 12,951.78 (-13.82)

CFIB report. Five extra public sector sick days cost up to $3.5B

A new report suggests public sector employees in Canada take nearly five more sick, disability and personal days per year than Canadians working in the private sector.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business says those extra days cost up to $3.5 billion per year, noting some public sector workers can bank unused sick days, then take a lump-sum payment or use the days to retire early.

The CFIB says federal government employees take the most time off, averaging 15.2 sick, disability and personal days per year compared to 12.9 days in the overall public sector and 8.2 days in the overall private sector.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Private sector figures

6.7

Employees in businesses with fewer than 20 employees averaged 6.7 days off, while those in firms with more than 500 employees took 9.1 days, which is still lower than the public sector average.

PM warns editors to take action on press regulator

Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron meets children at a primary school in London on Tuesday. Earlier, Cameron warned newspaper editors they must act quickly to set up an independent press regulator in the wake of a media ethics scandal. NEIL HALL/PA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Q4. BMO beats profit estimates

The Bank of Montreal reported a fourth-quarter profit of $1.08 billion on Tuesday as its capital markets business more than doubled its earnings compared with a year ago.

The increase came as the bank said the Canadian housing market appeared to be slowing in most markets.

BMO's revenue in the fourth quarter ended Oct. 31 from all business segments totalled $4.18 billion, up from $3.82 billion in the fourth quarter of 2011.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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OH, CHRISTMAS TREE, WHY DO YOU CAUSE SUCH A DEBATE?

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

There's an important dialogue going on in households around the world right about now.

And it goes like this:

He: So where do you think the tree should go this year?

She: You know, hon, I really think we should bite the bullet and buy an artificial tree this year. Those real trees are so messy. They drop all their needles and are full of bugs. Squirrels, too, maybe.

He: The trouble with artificial trees is that they look as if they were put together on craft day at kindergarten using toilet brushes and spray paint.

She: That's not true! The new ones are pretty nice and they come with lights. All you have to do is take them out of the box, plug them in and voila! Instant Christmas.

The pine needle in my side

The only artificial ones that look any good at all cost seven or eight hundred bucks. At that price, it will take an eternity of instant Christmases to amortize the cost.

He: I try to stay away from anything with the word "instant" in it: instant coffee, instant mashed potatoes ...

She: But real trees are so expensive. To get one that looks any good, you have to spend at least $50.

He: The only artificial ones that look any good at all cost seven or eight hundred bucks. At that price, it will take an eternity of instant Christmases to amortize the cost.

Sound of quaint landline ringing.

Offspring: Hi Daddy! What's up?

He: Hi. Your mother is lobbying for an artificial tree again this year.

Offspring: Nooooo! It wouldn't be Christmas. The Geneva Convention specifically calls for a real tree to be sacrificed as a solstice offering. Have you called the Xmas police?

He: Not yet. She does make a certain amount of sense about the mess, which I end up cleaning up every year. And it's harder now because I have to toss the old tree over the balcony.

Offspring: Don't be silly, Daddy. You can get one of those noble firs. They don't lose their needles until Easter and only cost $100 or so.

He: Is that all?

Offspring: And you get to save Christmas. I know I can count on you, Daddy. Gotta run! Ciao!

She: Was that our daughter?

He: Yes. She accused you of trying to ruin Christmas.

She: Same old, same old. By the way, I've been thinking: We could get one of those Charlie Brown trees from Ikea. I think they come free with a dozen meatballs.

He: I believe that's Lille Karl in Sweden. And his dog is called Snobben. At least there would be no place for the bugs to hide.

She: You can't help showing off, can you?

He: So where do you think the tree should go this year?

Road bump in the baby lodge

CHRIS JACKSON/GETTY IMAGES

Royal pregnancy

Police not fooled by princely mask

A man wearing a Prince William mask is escorted away by a policeman at the King Edward VII hospital in London, England. Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, remains in hospital after Monday's announcement of her pregnancy. She is suffering from hyperemesis gravidarum, or acute morning sickness. **METRO**

#royalbaby

Messages from the womb, under 140 characters

This man isn't the only royal impostor caught up in baby-mania. Spoof Twitter accounts of the unborn child are getting attention.

"CURRENT STATUS: DARK IN HERE, WILL UPDATE," tweeted @RoyalFoetus, followed by more than 6,800. A rival, @RoyalFetus (10,000-plus followers), said: "I may not have bones yet, but I'm already more important than everyone reading this." **METRO**

What are the odds?

8-1

Bettors in Britain will be able to back their royal-baby predictions with pounds sterling through agencies William Hill, Ladbrokes and Paddy Power. Paddy Power will give 8-1 odds for betting on twins; 100-1 for triplets. For quadruplets or more, you'll get 500-1 odds.

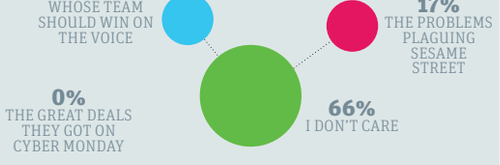
Online

For the latest, go to metronews.ca.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

What do you think Barack Obama and rival Mitt Romney really talked about when they met for lunch last week?



Twitter

@greenough45: Walk into the back at work and theres a great dane.. The dentist brought his dog lol so cute #george http://t.co/NMcKYW2I

@BarryDatPMF: I hate buying Christmas gifts , I'm only good at shopping for myself

@ToriOvechkin: im just going to get it out there, that i would rather study for history, then watch the vs fashion show.

@BarryDatPMF: Hello, I didn't mean to interrupt your scrolling, I just wanted to say that you're beautiful.

@anorngxo: WHY DO I ALWAYS GET HAIR IN MY FOOD?? I did not order a strand of hair with my meal thx.

@coreymintz: Grownups are jerks.

metro

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On top of the cheesy charts

Barry Manilow has become just the fifth artist to score 50 hits on Billboard's Adult Contemporary chart. The sentimental performer entered the rarified mix thanks to a cushy rendition of Santa Claus Is Coming to Town off his new Christmas album. As any Fanilow worth their One Night Live! One Last Time! concert tee could tell you, it's been four decades since the romantic balladeer first cracked the easy listening chart in November of 1974 with Mandy (the first of 13 of Manilow's ditties that would soar to No. 1 on the chart). We cosy up with the AC music titans voted most easy on the ears.

MIKE DOJC
scene@metronews.ca

Johnny Mathis

AC chart appearances: 49

While just one chart appearance shy of an official 50 entries club membership, this velvet voiced crooner pioneered the greatest hits album format. 1958's Johnny's Greatest Hits earned Mathis a spot in the Guinness Book of World Record.

Elvis Presley

AC chart appearances: 53

You can thank the king, and thank him very much for assuring that the rhythm and blues, rock and roll and gospel charts got all shook up during his reign from the 1950s through the '70s until his untimely passing.

Easy Listening Cred: Can't Help Falling in Love, Suspicious Minds, It's Now or Never.

Neil Diamond

AC chart appearances: 58

While millennials know this jazzy vocalist as the guy who sings Sweet Caroline, Diamond has written a treasure trove of soft rock gems. He's sold over 125 million records during his five decades on the scene. Easy Listening Cred: America, Heartlight, Forever in Blue Jeans.

Elton John

AC chart appearances: 68

In high school, this bespectacled pop piano prodigy should have been voted "most likely to be heard in an animated movie."

With lyricist Bernie Taupin in tow, the rocket man launched one hit after the other into radio orbit since Your Song off his sophomore album cracked the top 10 in 1970.

Barbra Streisand

AC chart appearances: 64

Trends, smrends, Babs eschewed 'em all, including rhinoplasty, fearing a nose job would ruin her voice. Never following suit with the hipsters of her heyday, Streisand was adult contemporary long before the term was coined.

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Is Butler a pro bad decision maker?

New movie. Richard Crouse tries to look at the brighter spots in the actor's career with another romantic comedy waiting in the wings

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Are there five more terrifying words in the English language than: new Gerard Butler romantic comedy? Butler is a good actor who makes lots of bad movies, but his track record in the rom com department is particularly dire.

Critics hate these movies, calling the handsome Scottish actor's attempts at mixing love and comedy "instantly grating," and "embarrassingly limited." Only Katherine Heigl (Butler's co-star in The Ugly Truth, called "ugly-ass crap" by Rolling Stone) has a worse track record.

This weekend he stars in Playing for Keeps, the true story of a former sports star who pulls his life together through romance and, let's hope, comedy.

Playing for Keeps, starring Gerard Butler, opens this weekend. HANDOUT

The reviews have yet to come in for Playing for Keeps, but let's hope it breaks his rom com track record and delivers some mushy, funny fun.

Rather than dwell on the bad stuff, in this column I'll look at his more interesting performances — and no, that Jennifer Aniston movie won't be included.

Butler became famous in 2002, with big roles in Reign of Fire and Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life, opposite Angelina Jolie. Then he developed into a crossover star, taking roles in everything from sci-fi flicks (Timeline), to musicals (The Phantom of the Opera) and even a rendering of the Anglo-Saxon epic poem Beowulf (Beowulf & Grendel).

The film that turned him into a heartthrob, but one with serious dramatic chops, was Dear Frankie, a four hankie tearjerker about a single mother who resorts to trickery to keep the memory of her late husband alive in her son's mind.

It was his next movie, however, that made him (and his meticulously crafted six-pack) a superstar. In 300 he's King Leonidas, a Spartan who led 300 soldiers against the might of the Persian army. It's the film equivalent of a heavy metal concert — loud, brutal and completely uncompromising — and it made him an action hero.

A few years ago, the website Gawker placed Butler on movie star probation, calling him a "professional bad decision maker" alongside Cuba Gooding Jr. and John Travolta, but Hollywood hasn't been all bad for Butler.

Post 300 highlights include playing a charming mobster in the violent Guy Ritchie flick RocknRolla, voicing Stoick the Vast, the chieftain of a Viking tribe in the animated How to Train Your Dragon and Coriolanus, a modern dress version of a 1608 play by William Shakespeare.

Slammed in the press

A few years ago the website Gawker placed Butler on movie star probation, calling him a "professional bad decision maker."

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John Travolta

Travolta's alleged lover sues star

A man who told the National Enquirer that he had a "steamy affair" with John Travolta while working as his pilot from 1981 to 1987 is now suing the actor, insisting he never signed a confidentiality agreement that would bar him from talking to the media about his time with the actor, according to TMZ.

The man, Doug Gotterba, claims Travolta's lawyer, Marty Singer, threatened a lawsuit after the story was published. Singer maintains that Gotterba's termination agreement included a confidentiality clause and that the former employee is just out for attention.

"Mr. Gotterba obviously filed this lawsuit to get his 15 minutes of fame," Singer says. "We plan to get this meritless case promptly dismissed."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Random sources state the obvious about Will and Kate

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

The news of Will and Kate's impending arrival has the tabloids in a tizzy — and scrambling for anyone, anyone at all, to be quoted about it.

I've compiled a sampling of the best of these random, mostly anonymous sources, all of whom state how Kate and Will will be good parents (as if anyone is going to say that she's going to become a baby-smacking alcoholic and he's planning on raising the baby as a racist).

The best of the bunch, with an added bonus of Snooki (say what?) commentary:

"Kate will be a firm but fair mother. Kate will let her children have fun and freedom, but she will also make sure they do what is best for them." — A "pal" of the Duchess of Cambridge, per Us Weekly.

"I can see William wanting to take time off in the modern paternity-leave style, so that he bonds with his child." — A "family friend" to dailymail.co.uk

"(Kate and Will) both try to be as normal as possible in their private lives. ... Everyone's always said what great parents they'll be, since they are such a caring couple and very relaxed. They will lavish love on their children." — Jessica Hay, a "childhood acquaintance" of Kate's, to Australian tabloid New Idea

"I'm sure she will be an amazing mom." — Snooki to the New York Daily News

Lindsay Lohan

IRS seized Lohan's bank accounts

More trouble for Lindsay Lohan. The IRS has reportedly seized the Liz and Dick star's bank accounts because of her outstanding debt, according to TMZ. Lohan previously had liens filed against her for unpaid taxes from 2009 and 2010 total more than $233,000, but the government apparently got tired of waiting for her to make good on the debt.

She is said to also owe money for 2011. Sources tell the website that Lohan is in panic mode and is scrambling for ways to make enough money to get out of debt pronto.

Twitter

@ABFoundation
I'm gonna write a book. A novel. It's called A PRIVATE MISUNDERSTANDING. Can you guess what it's about? Can you guess what happens?

@kathygriffin
I bet Justin Bieber can blow a mean whistle

@ParisHilton
Just landed in Dubai. Next stop New York City.

@RebelWilson
I am going to go on a new cleanse - my weekend cleanse of cutting everything out of my diet except for chocolate DID NOT WORK!

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LIFE

Since 1985, the United Nations has recognized the contributions of volunteers around the world on Dec. 5, International Volunteer Day. Metro talks to Cuso International and Free The Children, international development organizations that send volunteers overseas to share their expertise with partners in other nations. Here, they offer five things to consider before taking the leap into overseas volunteering.

METRO NEWS
life@metronews.ca

5 things every volunteer should know

Visual artist Stephanie Stoker (centre) works with young adults in Peru. CUSO INTERNATIONAL

Choose your organization carefully

Some organizations require you to pay your own way, and often include a fee; volunteering may be a fundraising mechanism for a development project. For others, volunteering is fundamental to their programs, and those serving take on professional roles in longer-term development.

SEAN KELLY, CUSO INTERNATIONAL

A volunteer trip is just the beginning

Volunteer travel is a life-changing experience for both the traveller and the developing communities in which they work. Further ignite the global change maker in you by taking your experience one step further when you return home. Spread the message of your transformative experience to others, helping to spark the change within them. **CRAIG KIELBURGER, FOUNDER, FREE THE CHILDREN**

For young people, volunteering means being engaged, empowered and part of a team. FREE THE CHILDREN

Work alongside the local community

Often times, travellers volunteer in isolation from the local community in which they are working in. Make sure to travel with organizations that have strong partnerships with local communities and governments. This enables you to ensure you are committing to a project that promotes long term and sustainable change.

CRAIG KIELBURGER, FOUNDER, FREE THE CHILDREN

School-building with local children creates a lasting bond for volunteers. FREE THE CHILDREN

Bairu Sium, left, a Toronto high school teacher, assists his colleagues in education in Tanzania. SCOTT PORTINGALE/CUSO INTERNATIONAL

Know why you're going

Volunteers want to help and make a difference, as the cliché goes, but most know this isn't a purely selfless act. You will learn new skills, broaden your horizons and come to better understand yourself and the world. And that's all OK. Reflect on your motivations. You want to help reduce global poverty or protect the natural world, but what else? Have you always wanted to travel, but not as a tourist? Work with kids? When you understand your motivations, you'll be in a better position to choose the option that is right for you. **SEAN KELLY, CUSO INTERNATIONAL**

Don't assume you know it all

Decades of successful and not-so-successful development assistance shows that projects parachuted in from above, without consultation or roots in local communities, usually do not have long-term benefits. You will want to help build the social infrastructure that is so critical to any nation's future.

SEAN KELLY, CUSO INTERNATIONAL

Augustina Aporte, who lives in Bolivia, works with the Chiquitania Forest Conservation Foundation on sustainability projects. MIGUEL HORTIGUELA/CUSO INTERNATIONAL

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5 apps to pack on your next vacation

Do you have an insatiable appetite for apps? Here are five that every tech hungry traveller should have

LOREN CHRISTIE
life@metronews.ca

1 mTrip

mTrip will create a customized itinerary based on your length of stay, hotel's location and personal sightseeing interests. Once this information is input, you will receive directions, transportation options and suggestions on nearby restaurants and attractions. There is a cost of $5.99 to use this app, but if you are travelling to one of the cities on their growing list, it's worth it. Available on Android and iPhone.

2 Foodspotting

Foodies will love using Foodspotting. You can recommend a dish, snap a shot of it and write a review of your experience. With more than two million "spottings," this user review app is leading the pack for travellers keen on following their stomachs. Available for Android, Blackberry, iPhone and Windows Phone.

3 GateGuru

GateGuru lists all the businesses in airports around the world along with their gate address. Whether you have five minutes to hit the ATM or are looking for the best ways to survive a long layover, it provides you with user reviews of shops and restaurants, the gory details on security and pictures and maps to assist you in making the most of your airport time. Available for iPhone and Android.

4 Skype

Tech expert Marc Saltzman swears by traveller standby Skype. With this free video calling app you can connect with your colleagues or help the kids with their homework. Typical traveller haunts such as airports, hotels and coffee shops usually offer free Wi-Fi, making it a cheap and cheerful way for a quick check-in with friends and family. Available on Android, iPad, iPhone and Windows Phone.

5 TripAdvisor

TripAdvisor has become the automatic global go-to for user-generated hotel reviews and they have 60 million of them to prove it. One bad review should be taken with a grain of salt, but if you start seeing patterns of complaint emerge, trust that there is a problem. Available for Android, iPad, iPhone and Windows Phone.

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Laughing in the frigid face of Old Man Winter

Festival fun. Bundle up and embrace Canadian culture at one of the many outdoor events taking place this season

The coming weeks are a time of hibernation for many Canadians. As temperatures plummet, it's only natural to want to huddle indoors near the warm glow of a fireplace or big-screen television and wait for the depth of winter to pass.

But for many people, it's a time of celebration. It's also a chance to show Old Man Winter that we Canadians can still face winter head-on, like the early settlers did with an axe, a tent and some hearty food and drink. For a few hours, anyway.

"Even if it's -40 C, people will be out there. They really want to enjoy winter and they embrace it," says Irina Ivanov-Bissonnette, spokesperson for the Festival du Voyageur.

The festival is held every year in mid-February in the St. Boniface neighbourhood of Winnipeg and brings visitors back to the early 19th century, when a small fort on the very site played an important role in the fur trade. There are similar festivals held across the country in January and February, including the Voyageur Winter Carnival in Thunder Bay, Ont., the Yukon Sourdough Rendez-Vous in Whitehorse, and the biggest one of all — the Quebec Winter Carnival.

They have a common theme — instead of hiding from winter, get outside, interact with hundreds or thousands of others and celebrate the often cold, harsh history of Canada's development. The Yukon Sourdough Rendez-Vous bills itself as "the only legal cure for the cabin fever blues."

"We want to encourage people to embrace the weather, embrace that time of the year," said Rendez-Vous Society executive director Jon Solberg. "It's about actually getting out in the community and getting active in different events that are going on."

Festival-goers at Rendez-Vous, scheduled to run Feb. 21 to 24 in 2013, may find themselves carrying large bags of flour on their backs, throwing an axe or racing in snowshoes — all in temperatures that can dip below -20 C. The festival celebrates the Yukon gold rush and recreates, to some extent, how people lived in the late 1800s. "It's celebrating the pioneers," Solberg said.

At the Festival du Voyageur, the focus is on 1815, a time when the Hudson Bay Company and the North West Company were vying for control of the fur trade. Actors in period costume inside a recreated Fort Gibraltar greet you as if you have stepped back in time. Any mention of Canada is likely to be met with a quizzical expression and a reminder that Canada is to the East. You, monsieur, are in Rupert's Land.

The period actors show visitors how to make tools, fur coats and other goods, and how meals were prepared and food was stored in an isolated Prairie outpost.

There is also a bit of poetic licence to the festival's take on history. Just outside the fort, period actors play out a battle between French- and English-speaking soldiers that looks like something from the Plains of Abraham in Quebec. The battle portrays a skirmish between the forces of Lord Selkirk and La Verendrye that never actually happened. Selkirk, a Scottish settler, and La Verendrye, a French explorer, lived at different times of the west's development.

The festival, now in its 44th year, is the largest Francophone festival in western Canada, attracting about 95,000 people over 10 days. The 2013 edition is scheduled to run Feb. 15 to 24.

Not everything about the festival is a throwback. At night, live music, much of it modern rock and folk, is performed inside huge heated tents. Francophone groups from across Canada are featured. The licensed bar serves modern brands of beer along with caribou, an old-time blend of red wine, whisky and maple sugar. And if the weather does turn particularly nasty, there are options.

At the Festival du Voyageur, the temperatures have sometimes risen to the point where snow and ice sculptures melt. Other years, temperatures have dipped below -40 C, leaving all but the bravest souls scurrying for cover in heated tents.

In Whitehorse, such temperatures are rare. But two years ago, the thermometer dipped to -25 C and a fierce wind blew at 40 kilometres an hour. "With our main performance tent, we put heat in there," said Solberg. "We warm it up pretty good. It's a bit of a windbreak and a shelter for people to go to."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

If you go...

- **The Festival du Voyageur.** Is held in Whittier Park, east of downtown Winnipeg. festivalvoyageur.mb.ca
- **Rendez-Vous.** There are several direct flights to Whitehorse from Vancouver. Travel from most other cities is not non-stop. yukonrendezvous.com

Children hang out with Leo LaTuque, the mascot of the Festival du Voyageur. DAN HARPER/THE CANADIAN PRESS HANDOUT

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Optimize your office experience

Placement pointers. A co-op can easily turn into a full-time career, so work it like you're already on board

VALERIE AGUIAR
TalentEgg.ca

Going out on a co-op work term for the first time can be daunting. Aside from showing up to work, there's a lot you should do to make a good impression.

Here are seven tips to help you make the most of your experience:

Don't wait until the first day
If you've been given your managers' contact information, get in touch with them. Let her know that you are excited to start and find out if there is anything they can suggest for you to do before you arrive. This gives them a good impression of you before they've even met you.

On your first day, come prepared
Bring in a copy of your job description as well as a notebook. You'll be taking in a lot of new information, so it helps if you write it down. It's also important that you rest up the night before. Even though your job might not be grueling, being in a new environment is, so help your body out by getting some sleep.

Don't flood your supervisor's inbox with questions when you could have easily asked a co-worker instead. ISTOCK

Ask questions
Don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it. People know you are new, and in most cases, they'll be more than happy to help. Don't be intimidated if everyone seems busy. They are, but they'll still find a way to help you — if you ask.

Observe
Whenever possible, try to watch and see how your manager and co-workers interact (not in a creepy way, of course!). Maybe people at your company are very casual in conversation. How do people dress? How long do people typically go for lunch? Use what you see to help you fit in.

Ask for work
Each manager is unique. Some might delegate tasks to you, others might only give you work if you ask for it. Don't be afraid to use the phrase, "Would you like me to do anything in particular today?" It always helps to be proactive at work. Plus, you might learn a thing or two.

When in doubt, check it out. If the work you are given is difficult and you aren't sure whether you did it correctly, ask someone to look over your work.

Your manager would definitely prefer this instead of finding a ton of mistakes later. You'll find that as time goes on, you'll feel more confident in your work.

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Speak out

@TalentEgg: #Coop students and grads: do you think co-op placements make a big difference in hatching a career? #QuestionOfTheDay

- **@SabaSabati:** Absolutely! U graduate w/ min 9 months experience. Relative to those with 0, it's a huge advantage! + networking opp = priceless
- **@ssimpson3:** It's a great way to add some experience to your resume, network within the industry, and and gain some real world skills
- **@danchukal:** absolutely! Coop gets ur foot in the door and without that exp, you'll be many steps behind those who have. #QuestionOfTheDay
- **@sonjaferne:** My worry as parent is companies cutting back; more students to place & fewer placements these days. So...is it worth it?
- **@ScouseNerd:** absolutely! If my previous program had anything like that I think my life would be much different today
- **@Mathoraa:** Definitely! It not only gives you experience, but also a 'feel' on what the job is like

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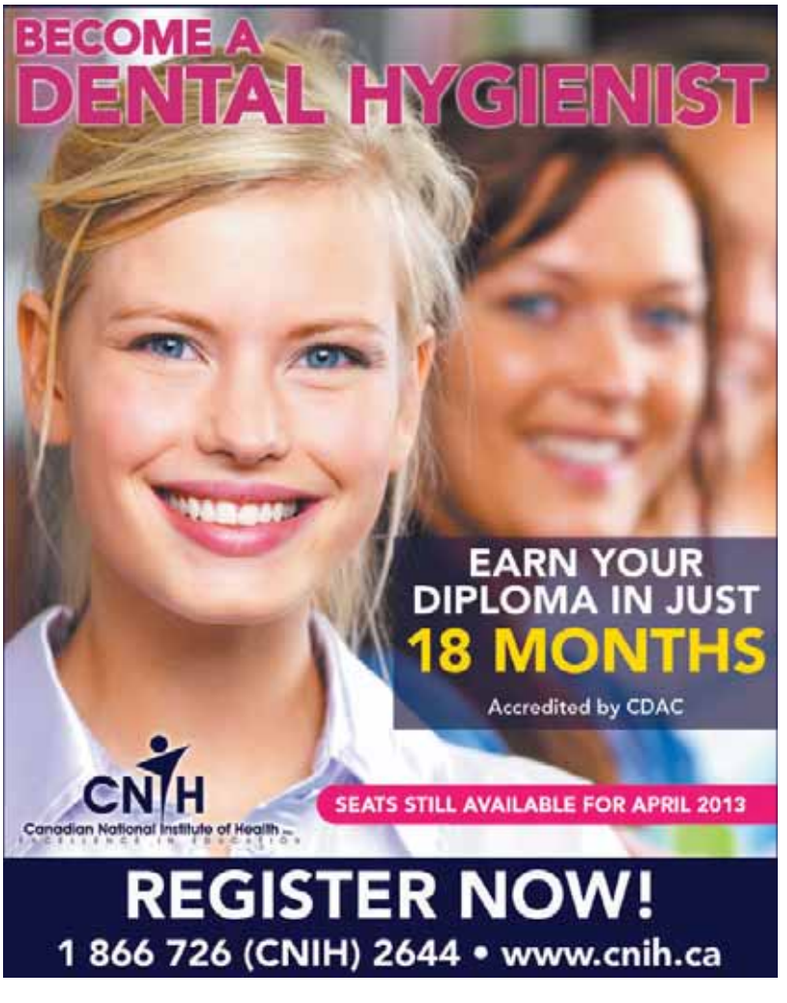

Quick cures for the co-op kibosh

Best of the desk.
Make it through those first few days sans any sensational slip-ups

ISHANI NATH
TalentEgg.ca

Don't rule out the possibility of shadowing people in other departments if you feel you aren't learning. ISTOCK

Landing a co-op position is great for getting hands-on experience in your field of choice, putting what you've learned in the classroom to practical use in the workplace. However, there are a few things that you should just simply not do.

To make sure you work it out in style, here are our guidelines for what not to do at your co-op position.

Don't slack because it's not a 'real job'
While co-op placements may not be technically a 'real job,' the work and opportunity that they present are no lie.

Showing up on time and working hard will not only make your experience better, it could help turn that placement into a 'real job' in the future.

Don't go in blank
Getting a co-op placement can be challenging, but once you get one, don't just sit back and wait for the ride to begin. Learn about the company you're working for, the different departments that you'll be exposed to and figure out what it is that you want to get out of the experience.

Communicate your goals to your boss and work with them to make sure you make the most of your co-op.

Don't fly under the radar
When going into a new work environment, it can be tempting to fade into the background. However, since co-ops are short-term placements, you need to utilize your time in the office to leave a positive impression.

Network within the office and get to know your colleagues and your boss.

Once you leave the office, these people can be great industry contacts for future jobs openings or mentorship so build relationships. You want to be on their radar, not flying under it.

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Impress your guests' taste buds with sophisticated Parmesan Custard Cup

Parmesan Custard

1. In food processor, combine light cream cheese, whipping cream and eggs. Pulse until smooth, about 2 minutes.

2. Add Parmesan, salt and pepper; continue to pulse until smooth, about 1 minute. Divide Parmesan mix into each of the eight greased glass ramekins (approx. 1/4 cup or 50 ml in each)

Spinach Layer

1. Put spinach over strainer in the sink and gently press to remove water.

2. In skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat, add garlic; cook, stirring until aromatic, about 1 min. Stir in spinach, green onions, salt and pepper. Cook to combine flavours, 4 mins. Remove from heat and spoon a generous 1/4 cup (50 ml) spinach mix on top of Parmesan custard, pressing gently.

Roasted Red Pepper and Salad Greens

1. In bowl, stir red pepper slices and garlic. Cover tops of spinach with a layer of roasted red pepper. The peppers should cover the spinach. Smooth tops.

2. Place custard cups on large rimmed baking sheet and bake in 375 F (190 C) oven until set, about 30 mins. Let cool slightly.

3. Meanwhile, in bowl, whisk together olive oil, vinegar, Dijon, salt and pepper. Toss with mixed greens.

4. Run thin knife around edges of glass ramekins. Invert onto salad plates and top each with small amount of mixed greens and serve. Or top each cup with a handful of mixed greens and serve. EGG FARMERS OF ONTARIO

Parmesan Custard Cup

This recipe makes 8 custard cups. EGG FARMERS OF ONTARIO

Ingredients

Parmesan Custard
- 1 pkg (250g/8oz) light cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) whipping cream
- 3 eggs
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) each salt and freshly ground pepper

Spinach Layer
- 2 pkgs each (300g) frozen chopped spinach, thawed
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) vegetable oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 3 green onions, thinly sliced
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) each salt and freshly ground pepper

Roasted Red Pepper Layer
- 1 jar (340 ml) roasted red peppers, drained and thinly sliced
- 2 cloves garlic

Salad
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) olive oil
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) red wine vinegar
- 2 tsp (10 ml) Dijon mustard
- salt and pepper to taste
- 3 cups (750 ml) mixed salad greens

Drink of the Week

Apple Cider Punch

Apple cider is one of those drinks that is automatically associated with winter and the holiday season. This version gets an added touch with grapefruit juice.

- 2 oz Bombay Sapphire
- 2.5 oz apple cider
- 1 oz grapefruit juice
- 1 egg white
- 1 oz corn syrup
- 1 dash Angustura bitters

Combine all ingredients into a shaker, dry shake. Add ice and shake again. Double strain into glass. Garnish with apple slice.

RECIPE AND PHOTO COURTESY OF BOMBAY SAPPHIRE

Gingerbread Cake ushers in the holiday baking season

There is no subtle way to say this. This cake screams Christmas.

To start with, it's gingerbread, the aroma alone of which is embedded in the definition of this holiday. That aroma, of course, is paired with an ultra-rich, moist cake that is at once dense, but also light. Then there is the sugar crisp caramelized sides of the cake, which only add to the tender, sweet lemony pear slices that crown the cake.

Pair this cake with a mug of hot cocoa, coffee or (to be totally indulgent) a frothy glass of eggnog.

1. In a skillet over low heat, combine the lemon juice and zest with the wine and 1/2 cup of the brown sugar. Add the pears and bring to a slow simmer. Cook for 10 minutes, or until the pears are just tender. Remove from the heat and gently stir in the raisins.

2. Heat the oven to 350 F. Spray a tube pan with baking spray. Sprinkle the remaining 1/4 cup brown sugar in the bottom of the pan. Arrange the pears, slightly overlapping, over the sugar.

3. In a medium bowl, use an electric mixer to beat together the butter, granulated sugar, molasses, ginger, cinnamon, cardamom, allspice, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Add the eggs, one at a time, scraping the bowl between additions. Add half the milk followed by half of the flour, mixing before adding the remaining half the milk and flour. Spoon into the prepared pan over the pears.

4. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted at the centre comes out clean. Allow to cool for 15 minutes in the pan, then place a large overturned plate or platter over the cake. Invert the cake so it is standing on the plate. If any of the pears stick to the pan, carefully remove them and return them to their place on the cake. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- Zest and juice of 2 lemons
- 1/2 cup white wine
- 3/4 cup packed light brown sugar, divided
- 3 large pears, peeled, cored and sliced
- 1/2 cup golden raisins
- 3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/3 cup molasses
- 1 tbsp dry ground ginger
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp ground cardamom
- 1/2 tsp ground allspice
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp baking soda
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 2/3 cups all-purpose flour

This recipe serves 16. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blue Cheese & Pear Tarts

1. Preheat oven to 425 F (220 C). Lightly butter a baking sheet. Cut pear in half lengthwise; scoop out core and stem. Place cut sides down and cut lengthwise into 1/4-inch (0.5 cm) thick slices. Place on buttered baking sheet and roast 18 mins., flipping over halfway, until golden and tender. Transfer to cutting board and let cool completely. Reduce oven temperature to 375 F (190 C).

2. Meanwhile, in skillet, heat butter and oil over medium heat. Add onions and half of salt. Cook, stirring occasionally, 8 mins., or until onions are tender and slightly golden. Set aside.

3. In bowl, whisk together eggs, cream and sour cream. Whisk in remaining salt and pepper.

4. Chop pear slices into 1/4- to 1/2-inch (0.5 to 1 cm) pieces; set aside.

5. Place frozen tarts on clean baking sheet. Spoon onions, into bottom of each tart, dividing equally. Divide crumbled blue cheese and pear over onions. Pour cream mix into tart shells until just little bits of filling are peaking through.

6. Place baking sheet in oven and bake 25 mins. or until filling is puffy and tart shells are golden. Allow to cool a little before serving.

DAIRYGOODNESS.CA

Ingredients

- 1 pear
- 1 tsp (5 ml) butter
- 1 tsp (5 ml) olive oil
- 1 onion, cut into 1/2-inch (1 cm) dice
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) salt
- 3 eggs
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) each 35% whipping cream and 14% sour cream
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) pepper
- 24 frozen tart shells (3-inch/7.5 cm size)
- 3-1/4 oz (100 g) Canadian Blue cheese, crumbled

4 SPORTS

Hockey

Americans name invitees for junior selection camp

Returning players John Gibson, Jacob Trouba and J.T. Miller as well as some top NHL prospects were among 27 players invited Tuesday to the U.S. national junior team preliminary training camp.

Alex Galchenyuk of the Sarnia Sting, drafted third overall by the Montreal Canadiens in June, as well as Toronto Maple Leafs first-rounder Tyler Biggs and the Ottawa Senators' 21st overall selection Stefan Noesen were also invited.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Victorino Beantown bound

Free-agent outfielder Shane Victorino and the Red Sox agreed Tuesday to a $39-million, three-year contract, Boston's second big addition during the winter meetings.

Victorino's deal is subject to a physical, as is the $39-million, three-year contract the Red Sox agreed to Monday with Mike Napoli.

Victorino hit a combined .255 with 11 home runs and 55 RBIs last season for Philadelphia and the Los Angeles Dodgers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shane Victorino GETTY IMAGES FILE

Former Detroit Red Wings defenceman Mike Commodore, right, lands a punch on the Flames' Tim Jackman in Calgary on Jan. 31, 2011. The NHL lockout showed little sign of progress, so Commodore decided to play in the American Hockey League to try to salvage his career. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Journeyman in minors to salvage NHL career

Lockout limbo.
Commodore hopes to turn heads while playing for the AHL's Hamilton Bulldogs

Quoted

"I'm playing in front of people that I would like to see me play — NHL scouts, GMs and stuff like that."

Mike Commodore on playing in the minors

The NHL lockout showed little sign of progress, so Mike Commodore decided to take action.

But his decision to sign a 25-game professional tryout offer with the AHL's Hamilton Bulldogs was not just an effort to salvage a season.

"I need to be playing, in my opinion, if I want to have a good chance of continuing my career," he said while the Bulldogs visited the Abbotsford Heat for a pair of games last weekend. "So here I am."

The 33-year-old Sherwood Park, Alta., native was among a long list of unrestricted NHL free agents who were left in limbo when the previous NHL collective bargaining agreement expired Sept. 15. Teams raced to sign younger, core assets before the old CBA expired, but took a pass on older UFAs until new financial parameters, notably the salary-cap maximum and contracting rules, are established.

"Obviously, they were looking to lock up guys long-term with the expiry coming up," he said. "But for guys like me, there wasn't a real rush, and then the lockout started."

Commodore split last season with the Detroit Red Wings and Tampa Bay Lightning. He is now in his 13th pro season, and has played for almost as many teams in that span.

Since being drafted by New Jersey in the second round (42nd overall) in 1992, he has logged 484 career NHL regular-season games with the Devils, Calgary, Carolina, Ottawa, Columbus, Detroit and Tampa. He has also suited up in 53 playoff games.

He won a Stanley Cup with the Carolina Hurricanes in 2005-06, played for the Calgary Flames squad that fell in seven games in the 2003-04 Stanley Cup final to Tampa Bay, and was a member of Canada's world championship-winning squad in 2007.

He has 23 NHL career regular-season goals and 83 assists along with eight post-season points.

"The last two years for me, without getting too deep into it, haven't really gone in my favour," said Commodore, who is slated to receive a pro-rated salary of $105,000 after earning $1 million last season. "I haven't played nearly as much as I would have liked, and it all happened very quick."

Commodore is sought for his physical play and has racked up 683 career penalty minutes in the NHL.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	12	3	.800	—
New York	12	4	.750	1/2
Brooklyn	11	5	.688	11/2
Chicago	8	7	.533	4
Atlanta	9	5	.643	21/2
Philadelphia	10	8	.556	31/2
Boston	9	8	.529	4
Milwaukee	8	8	.500	41/2
Indiana	8	9	.471	5
Charlotte	7	9	.438	51/2
Orlando	7	10	.412	6
Detroit	6	13	.316	8
Cleveland	4	14	.222	91/2
Toronto	4	14	.222	91/2
Washington	1	13	.071	101/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	12	3	.800	1/2
San Antonio	14	4	.778	—
Oklahoma City	14	4	.778	—
L.A. Clippers	11	6	.647	21/2
Golden State	10	7	.588	31/2
Denver	9	9	.500	5
Minnesota	8	8	.500	5
Houston	8	8	.500	5
Utah	9	10	.474	51/2
L.A. Lakers	8	9	.471	51/2
Dallas	8	9	.471	51/2
Portland	8	10	.444	6
Phoenix	7	11	.389	7
New Orleans	5	11	.313	8
Sacramento	4	12	.250	9

Division leaders ranked in top four positions and best eight teams qualify for playoffs

Tuesday's results
Minnesota 105 Philadelphia 88
Miami at Washington,
Oklahoma City at Brooklyn
L.A. Lakers at Houston
Phoenix at Memphis
Indiana at Chicago
Monday's results
Portland 118 Charlotte 112 OT
Detroit 89 Cleveland 79
New Orleans 102 Milwaukee 81
Denver 113 Toronto 110
L.A. Clippers 105 Utah 104
Orlando 102 Golden State 94
Wednesday's games
Portland at Indiana, 7 p.m.
New York at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Golden State at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Denver at Atlanta, 8 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Cleveland, 8 p.m.
Milwaukee at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Orlando at Utah, 9 p.m.
Toronto at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Dallas at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.
Thursday's games
New York at Miami, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m.
Friday's games
Denver at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Boston at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Golden State at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Memphis at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Charlotte at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Houston at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Toronto at Utah, 9 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma City, 9:30 p.m.
Orlando at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

LATE MONDAY

NUGGETS 113, RAPTORS 110

TORONTO (110)
Lowry 6-16 11-11 24, Bargnani 10-20 1-2 23, DeRozan 8-13 1-1 18, Ross 4-8 2-2 12, Johnson 5-7 0-0 11, Valanciunas 3-5 1-2 7, Davis 3-5 0-0 6, Calderon 1-4 1-1 4, Pietrus 1-5 0-0 3, Lucas 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 42-86 17-19 110.
DENVER (113)
Brewer 9-15 0-0 19, Faried 5-11 8-11 18, McGee 4-5 9-16 17, Lawson 6-15 1-2 16, Gallinari 4-10 3-4 13, Koufos 4-12 2-6 10, Miller 3-4 2-2 8, Hamilton 4-8 0-0 8, Iguodala 1-5 2-2 4. Totals 40-85 27-43 113.

Toronto	24	20	31	35 —110
Denver	29	32	28	24 —113

3-Point Goals—Toronto 9-28 (Bargnani 2-8, Ross 2-5, Lowry 1-4, DeRozan 1-3, Calderon 1-3, Pietrus 1-3, Johnson 1-1, Lucas 0-1). Denver 6-15 (Lawson 3-5, Gallinari 2-4, Brewer 1-2, Iguodala 0-2, Miller 0-1, Hamilton 0-1). **Rebounds—**Toronto 37 (Davis 9, DeRozan 7, Ross 6, Bargnani 4, Johnson 4, Valanciunas 4, Lowry 3). Denver 53 (Koufos 10, Faried 10, Gallinari 8, McGee 6, Brewer 5, Hamilton 5, Lawson 4, Miller 3, Iguodala 2). **Assists—**Toronto 19 (Lowry 7). Denver 25 (Iguodala 8). **Total Fouls—**Toronto 30, Denver 20.
A—15,221. T—2:17

SOCCER

UEFA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

GROUP STAGE
Second Leg
(home teams listed first)
Tuesday's results
AC Milan (Italy) 0 Zenit St. Petersburg (Russia) 1
Dinamo Zagreb (Croatia) 1 Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine) 1
Borussia Dortmund (Germany) 1 Manchester City (England) 0
Malaga (Spain) 2 Anderlecht (Belgium) 2
Montpellier (France) 1 FC Schalke 04 (Germany) 1
Olympiacos (Greece) 2 Arsenal (England) 1
Paris SG (France) 2 FC Porto (Portugal) 1
Real Madrid (Spain) 4 Ajax (Netherlands) 1

ENGLAND

ENGLISH CONFERENCE

Tuesday's results
Ebbsfleet United 2 Cambridge United 4
Lincoln City 0 Woking 2
Macclesfield Town 3 Hyde 2
Nuneaton 1 Dartford 0
Telford United 1 Barrow 1
Alfreton Town vs. Wrexham (ppd.)
Braintree Town vs. Forest Green Rovers (ppd.)
Gateshead vs. Grimsby Town (ppd.)
Newport County vs. Luton Town (ppd.)
Stockport County vs. Southport FC (ppd.)

TRANSACTIONS

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Named Jamie Nelson coach.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

NEW YORK METS — Agreed to terms with 3B David Wright on an eight-year contract.

NBA

CLEVELAND CAVALIERS — Recalled F Kevin Jones from Canton (NBADL).

NFL

NFL — Suspended Washington CB Cedric Griffin four games for violating the NFL's policy on performance enhancing substances.
ARIZONA CARDINALS — Released TE Todd Heap. Signed TE Kory Sperry.
CHICAGO BEARS — Signed LB Dom DeCicco to a two-year contract and RB Harvey Unga to the practice squad. Waived/injured LB Patrick Trahan. Released QB Matt Blanchard from the practice squad.
CINCINNATI BENGALS — Placed WR Mohamed Sanu on injured reserve. Signed RB Daniel Herron from the practice squad and WR Vidal Hazelton to the practice squad.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Released FB Dominique Jones.
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Released LB Clint Session and TE Maurice Stovall. Signed FB Will Ta'ofu'ou to the practice squad.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Re-signed Donte' Stallworth. Placed WR Julian Edelman on injured reserve. Released OL Mitch Petrus. Signed OL Tommie Draheim and OL Colin Miller to the practice squad.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Placed G James Carpenter on the reserve/non-football illness list. Waived/injured WR Braylon Edwards. Signed G Rishaw Johnson from the practice squad.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Signed OL Kyle DeVan and T Daniel Baldridge. Signed G Chris Scott to the practice squad. Placed T David Stewart and S Robert Johnson on injured reserve.

CFL

EDMONTON ESKIMOS — Released G Devin Tyler.
MONTREAL ALOUETTES — Signed FB Patrick Lavoie to a three-year contract.

AHL

HAMILTON BULLDOGS — Reassigned F Alain Berger and D Joe Stejskal to Wheeling (ECHL).
MANCHESTER MONARCHS — Signed G Peter Mannino to a one-year contract. Released D Vincent LoVerde from a professional tryout agreement.
SPRINGFIELD FALCONS — Assigned D Patrick Cullity to Idaho (ECHL).

NLL

COLORADO MAMMOTH — Traded F Derek Hopcroft to Buffalo for a conditional 2014 sixth-round draft pick.
WASHINGTON STEALTH — Signed F Athan Iannucci to a one-year contract.

MLS

FC DALLAS — Re-signed D George John to a multiyear contract.
PHILADELPHIA UNION — Exercised the 2014 contract option on M Zach Pfeffer and loaned him to Hoffenheim (Bundesliga-Germany) for 2013.

AHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Worcester	21	11	8	1	1	60	65	24
Manchester	21	10	8	2	1	55	53	23
St. John's	22	11	10	0	1	53	60	23
Portland	21	10	9	1	1	67	69	22
Providence	19	9	8	0	2	44	55	20

NORTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Springfield	20	12	4	1	3	70	42	28
Bridgeport	20	10	9	0	1	62	70	21
Connecticut	20	9	9	2	0	63	70	20
Adirondack	20	9	11	0	0	52	60	18
Albany	18	5	8	0	5	40	52	15

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Syracuse	20	13	5	1	1	74	55	28
Binghamton	18	12	4	1	1	57	44	26
W-B/Scranton	20	13	7	0	0	58	46	26
Hershey	21	9	11	1	0	55	62	19
Norfolk	20	9	11	0	0	59	65	18

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTH DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Abbotsford	20	13	3	2	2	56	36	30
Toronto	21	12	8	0	1	70	59	25
Lake Erie	22	11	9	1	1	70	70	24
Rochester	19	9	8	2	0	63	59	20
Hamilton	18	7	9	1	1	38	57	16

MIDWEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Rockford	22	12	9	0	1	73	67	25
Grand Rapids	19	11	6	1	1	66	58	24
Chicago	20	9	8	2	1	56	62	21
Milwaukee	19	9	8	1	1	54	58	20
Peoria	20	6	10	2	2	47	73	16

SOUTH

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Charlotte	21	12	7	0	2	70	61	26
Oklahoma City	20	11	6	1	2	66	59	25
Houston	20	11	6	1	2	67	59	25
Texas	20	10	8	1	1	51	58	22
San Antonio	20	6	11	0	3	51	63	15

Note: Two points awarded for a win, one for an overtime or shootout loss.
Tuesday's result
San Antonio at Abbotsford
Wednesday's games
All Times Eastern
Bridgeport at Connecticut, 7 p.m.
Peoria at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
Texas at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Abbotsford, 10 p.m.
Thursday's games
Lake Erie at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Hershey at Norfolk, 7 p.m.
Friday's games
Lake Erie at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Adirondack at Rochester, 7:05 p.m.
Portland at Binghamton, 7:05 p.m.
Manchester at Providence, 7:05 p.m.
Hershey at W-B/Scranton, 7:05 p.m.
Hamilton at Syracuse, 7:30 p.m.
Springfield at St. John's, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Rockford, 8:05 p.m.
Grand Rapids at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Houston at Texas, 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 8
Bridgeport at Albany, 5 p.m.
Hamilton at Hershey, 7 p.m.
Connecticut at Manchester, 7 p.m.
Syracuse at Adirondack, 7 p.m.
Providence at Worcester, 7 p.m.
Rochester at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Portland at W-B/Scranton, 7:05 p.m.
Norfolk at Binghamton, 7:05 p.m.
Springfield at St. John's, 7:30 p.m.
Peoria at Texas, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at San Antonio, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Rockford, 8:05 p.m.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	9	3	0	.750	430	260
N.Y. Jets	5	7	0	.417	228	296
Miami	5	7	0	.417	227	249
Buffalo	5	7	0	.417	277	337

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	11	1	0	.917	351	221
Indianapolis	8	4	0	.667	265	306
Tennessee	4	8	0	.333	248	359
Jacksonville	2	10	0	.167	206	342

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	9	3	0	.750	303	242
Pittsburgh	7	5	0	.583	254	230
Cincinnati	7	5	0	.583	302	260
Cleveland	4	8	0	.333	229	265

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	9	3	0	.750	349	244
San Diego	4	8	0	.333	258	257
Oakland	3	9	0	.250	235	376
Kansas City	2	10	0	.167	188	322

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	7	5	0	.583	321	243
Washington	6	6	0	.500	312	301
Dallas	6	6	0	.500	280	295
Philadelphia	3	9	0	.250	217	320

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	11	1	0	.917	317	229
Tampa Bay	6	6	0	.500	333	285
New Orleans	5	7	0	.417	321	327
Carolina	3	9	0	.250	235	292

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	8	4	0	.667	296	259
Chicago	8	4	0	.667	294	198
Minnesota	6	6	0	.500	262	272
Detroit	4	8	0	.333	300	315

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	8	3	1	.708	289	171
Seattle	7	5	0	.583	242	202
St. Louis	5	6	1	.458	221	267
Arizona	4	8	0	.333	186	234

WEEK 13

Monday's result
Washington 17 N.Y. Giants 16
Sunday's results
N.Y. Jets 7 Arizona 6
Kansas City 27 Carolina 21
Indianapolis 35 Detroit 33
Buffalo 34 Jacksonville 18
Seattle 23 Chicago 17
New England 23 Miami 16
Houston 24 Tennessee 10
Green Bay 23 Minnesota 14
St. Louis 16 San Francisco 13
Denver 31 Tampa Bay 23
Cleveland 20 Oakland 17
Cincinnati 20 San Diego 13
Pittsburgh 23 Baltimore 20
Dallas 38 Philadelphia 33

WEEK 14

Thursday, December 6
Denver at Oakland, 8:20 p.m.
Sunday, December 9
St. Louis at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Washington, 1 p.m.
San Diego at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Kansas City at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Chicago at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Miami at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.
New Orleans at N.Y. Giants, 4:25 p.m.
Arizona at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
Detroit at Green Bay, 8:20 p.m.

GOLF

WEEKEND GLANCE

PGA TOUR

FRANKLIN TEMPLETON SHOOTOUT
Site: Naples, Fla.
Schedule: Friday-Sunday.
Television: Golf Channel (Friday, 1-4 p.m., 4:30-7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 8:30-11:30 p.m.; Monday, midnight-3 a.m.) and NBC (Saturday, 4-6 p.m.; Sunday, 3-6 p.m.).
Online: www.franklintempletonshootout.com
PGA Tour site: www.pgatour.com

PGA TOUR OF AUSTRALASIA/ ONEASIA TOUR

AUSTRALIAN OPEN
Site: Sydney.
Schedule: Thursday-Sunday.
Television: Golf Channel (Wednesday, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.; Thursday, 1-3:30 p.m., 8 p.m.-1 a.m.; Friday, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.; Saturday, 1-3:30 p.m., 8 p.m.-1 a.m.; Sunday, 1-6 p.m.).
Online: www.australianopengolf.com.au
PGA Tour of Australasia site: www.pgatour.com.au
OneAsia Tour site: www.oneasia.asia

ASIAN TOUR

THAILAND GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP
Site: Bangkok.
Schedule: Thursday-Sunday.
Television: Golf Channel (Thursday, 1-5:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Friday, 1-5:30 a.m.; Saturday, 1-4:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Sunday, 1-4:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., 6:30-8:30 p.m.).
Online: www.asiantour.com

LADIES EUROPEAN TOUR

DUBAI LADIES MASTERS
Site: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
Schedule: Wednesday-Saturday.
Television: Golf Channel (Wednesday-Thursday, 3:30-7:30 p.m.; Friday, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Saturday, 3:30-7:30 p.m.).
Online:www.ladieseuropeantour.com

The 2013 Jetta Hybrid

Engine

The powertrain consists of a unique 1.4-litre turbo-charged four-cylinder engine worth 150 horse-power and 184 pound-feet of torque. It's paired with a water-cooled electric motor rated at 27 horsepower and 114 pound-feet of torque. Electricity comes from a lithium-ion battery pack located behind the rear seat.

A 1.4 litre, turbo-charged engine

2013 Jetta Hybrid

- **Type.** Four-door, front-wheel-drive compact sedan
- **Engines (hp).** 1.4-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (150) with 27-hp electric motor (170, net)
- **Transmission.** Seven-speed dual-clutch automated manual
- **Base price (incl.destination).** $29,400

Design

Physical modifications aimed at maximizing the Hybrid's fuel economy include a cold-air intake for the engine plus a special front air dam, side skirts and rear spoiler for the body. The underbody has been fitted with extra panels designed to further reduce air resistance and turbulence.

Fuel economy

The (Direct Shift Gearbox) or DSG also features a sport mode that holds each gear for a longer duration when accelerating, but at the expense of fuel economy that in "normal" mode is estimated at 4.6 l/100 km city and 4.0 highway. That beats the Jetta TDI's 6.7/4.6 highway figures and rivals the slower Civic Hybrid's.

Review. VW's hybrid shift is an economically sound one

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

In a diesel-versus-hybrid comparison that usually pits Volkswagen against the rest of the world, did anyone really see this one coming? Volkswagen building a hybrid? One that beats its own diesel model in fuel economy and comes close in price? Talk about a shift. Talk about the 2013 Jetta Hybrid.

The Jetta's hybrid system generates 170 net horsepower and 184 pound-feet of torque. That's less than a Toyota Camry Hybrid or Ford Fusion Hybrid, but keep in mind that the Jetta is closer in size to the Honda Civic and its estimated 8.6-second zero-to-60-m.p.h (96 km/h) time trumps the Civic Hybrid by 1.5 seconds and the Jetta TDI by half a second.

Assisting the Jetta Hybrid in the performance department is a seven-speed automated manual transmission (Direct Shift Gearbox, or DSG) that features rapid-fire gear changes.

It can be left in automatic mode or the driver can go manually.

On the road, the Jetta's hybrid unit can briefly operate on electric power for up to two kilometres and at speeds up to 60 km/h in standard mode, or 70 km/h in E-Mode. However, anything more than a gentle nudge of the pedal will tell the gas engine to join in.

The interior is standard Jetta fare, with the exception of a power meter that replaces the tachometer and displays when the Hybrid is in gas or electric mode.

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L.A. show proves that cars are always greener (and shinier) on the other side

Electric evolution. Automakers have spotted consumers' love of green, and the result is gorgeous, guilt-free vehicles

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Do you suffer from shiny object syndrome, or SOS as it's known in the self-help industry? Are you pulled invisibly toward bright shiny objects, and then transfixed in their orbit, while you try to rationalize their purchase or theft?

Then don't go, like I did last week, to the Los Angles Auto Show. It's full of things you will want to steal or buy — even the so-called green ones. The evolution of green vehicles coming in more and more attractive packages has happened over the last decade or so, after automakers realized that we consumers are drawn to green, so long as it is in a vehicle form that fits our emotional or practical needs, for whatever life stage we're in at the moment.

For example, while small and utilitarian is the ultimate way to go green, the chances are slim that you're going to buy a smart for-two electric if you go to ski country every winter weekend with four kids and a smelly dog.

On the flip side, the chances are also slim you're going to shell out $100,000-plus for a cool Fisker Karma hybrid when you're a freshman at U of Jagermeister.

The talking heads during the automakers' press days at the L.A. show repeatedly mentioned that there is no silver bullet to green technology, and that they'll have to make green advances on all fronts and on all types of vehicles, and that the vehicles themselves cannot "not deliver" their respective brand promises.

So, if I could, I would like to draw your attention to three L.A. debuts that illustrate this vision.

Chevrolet Spark EV

Chevrolet is GM's go-to brand for targeting young hipsters and value-conscious elders. As Chevrolet's smallest car, the Spark is already a great urban mobility device, and the electrification of it makes it even more so. When it goes on sale next summer, for about $32,500 US (the U.S. federal rebate of $7,500 lowers the price to $25,000), it will be GM's first all-electric passenger vehicle since the EV1 was controversially discontinued in 2003. Unfortunately, the small number of Spark EVs coming to Canada next year is strictly for fleet accounts.

Technical highlights: Lots of components carried over from Volt; First vehicle to use new SAE Combo DC Fast Charging protocol, enables Spark EV to charge to 80 per cent in 20 minutes; Two seven-inch LCD screens to better utilize smartphone infotainment, like navigation, satellite radio and Apple's Siri voice thing. On top of that is a Lithium ion battery pack and electric motor (designed and built by GM in the U.S.) which delivers 130 hp and 400 pound-feet of torque! It should be a hoot to drive. Expect speeds of around 80 km/h.

Mercedes-Benz Ener-G-Force

The L.A. show hosted a design challenge, where automakers could envision a Highway Patrol Vehicle in 2025. Mercedes-Benz came up with the Ener-G-Force, which channels the vibe of a G Class off-roader circa 1979. There is, however, a twist. The G Force stores rainwater in the tanks on the roof, and transfers it to the "hydro-tech convertor," where it's turned into hydrogen for operating the fuel cells. "Swappable" battery packs are stored in the side skirts. There is an electric motor at each wheel to deliver four-wheel drive. A 360-degree topography scanner sends data to the suspension computer, which adjusts suspension parameters for maximum traction. It's a zero-emission vehicle with zero tolerance for citizen misbehaviour.

BMW i8 Spyder

The BMW i8 Spyder shown in L.A. is definitely a concept, but production versions of both i8 coupes and convertibles are definitely coming sometime around the 2014-15 timeframe.

Expect prices of more than $100,000 and top speeds of more than 150 mph, so they'll definitely be worthy of wearing the BMW badge. The "petrol" part of the plug-in hybrid concept is a three-cylinder turbo-diesel, expected to deliver about 70 mpg (3.36 L/100 km).

Horoscopes

Aries
March 21 - April 20
Look ahead and make plans — the bigger the better. The planets are encouraging you to try out new ways of doing things and before the current week is over, you will have had a revelation of some kind.

Taurus
April 21 - May 21
What happens over the next 24 hours will convince you there can be no more looking back. It is the future that matters and the future begins now. Change your life by changing the way you think about it.

Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Why do you believe you are surrounded by enemies? Whatever the reason, it must not be allowed to stop you from taking risks. Over the next few days, if you bet against the odds, you might just win big.

Cancer
June 22 - July 23
What is the one thing you are really good at? Everyone has a talent of some sort and if you identify yours and do something with it, you will soon enjoy amazing success. Do what comes naturally and do it brilliantly.

Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Be brave and take that big gamble you have been thinking of. There are, of course, no guarantees but life is supposed to be fun and one of the most fun things you can do is to reach beyond your usual limits.

Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
A long-term problem will work itself out to your complete satisfaction today and to say you will be surprised is a big understatement. Don't think about it too much, just make the most of it.

Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It seems you have been working at cross purposes with a friend, but the good news is you can easily set things straight. Identify what each of you is trying to accomplish then resolve to help one another.

Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
Someone new will come into your life today and it could be the start of a great friendship. You may be as different as chalk is from cheese but for some reason you will click. It could be you are soul mates.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Old-fashioned ideas and habitual routines tend to bore you and that's good because success will come through trying new things. Don't just move with the times, move ahead of the times. Shake up the status quo.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Whatever it is you get up to next it is sure to change the way other people look at you, and maybe even the way you look at yourself. Strive to be different, not just today but every day from now on.

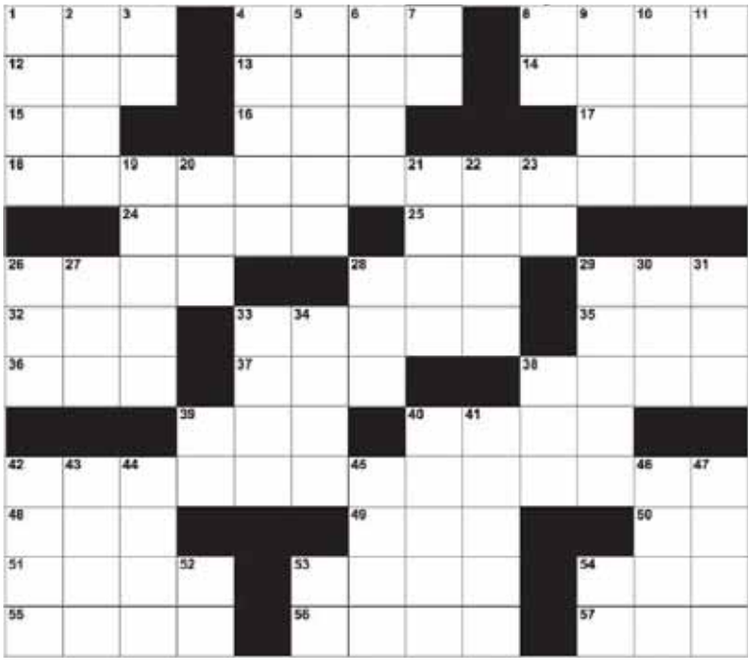
Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You will have plenty to say for yourself today but there is a danger you will say too much and turn others against you. That may not worry you much now but it will later on when you need their assistance.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Today's events will surprise you, especially if you are the kind of Pisces who thinks in terms of black and white or good and bad. Try not to be so conservative in your opinions. Strive to see the bigger picture.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword

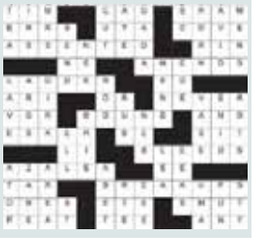
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Auger
4. Skin
8. Star —: Deep Space Nine
12. Stage of sleep (abbr.)
13. Vicinity
14. Peacekeeping grp.
15. Battery sz.
16. Common suffix
17. "Smoking or —?"
18. Problem solving technique24. Rose holder
24. Urn
25. Part of UCLA
26. Catty
28. — de Janeiro
29. Runaway singer Shannon
32. Vocalized pauses
33. Yield
35. Jay-Z's genre
36. Understand
37. Flee from the law
38. Balsam and Evergreen
39. Charlottetown province (abbr.)
40. Use the phone
42. Genuinely real
48. GPS heading (abbr.)
49. NHL legend Bobby
50. First two vowels in a sequence
51. Orange peel
53. Only one time
54. Rap sheet abbreviation
55. Director Preminger
56. Meadows
57. Berlin article

Down
1. Spirited horse
2. "What Not to —"
3. Letters between K and N
4. Growing —
5. Greeted the day
6. Monthly expense
7. Apiece (abbr.)
8. Actress who starred in Father Dowling Mysteries (init.)
9. Indian Queen
10. British prep school.
11. "King —"
19. Cease
20. Author Fleming
21. Ken or Lena
22. Tooth anchor
23. Form of address
26. "Sleepless in Seattle" actress Ryan
27. Sooner than, poetically
28. Zodiac symbol
29. Boring tool
30. Corn unit
31. CD's predecessor
33. Jane Lynch drama
34. Precipitation
38. Tampa state
39. Chemistry measure (abbr.)
40. Time frame
41. Farm units
42. Flying (prefix)
43. Condo, e.g.
44. Camping necessity
45. Pitch
46. Trout habitat
47. Part of a decade
52. "— the Right Thing"
53. Chemical suffix
54. Billboard use

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

8			3		9			
9	3						6	5
	7			2		8		
	5		6	7				1
		7				6		
6				5	4		2	
		9		8			1	
7	6						8	4
			1		3			6

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	7	9	3	4	2	8	5	1
1	4	2	8	7	5	9	3	6
3	5	8	9	6	1	4	2	7
5	3	1	2	8	4	7	6	9
8	9	7	5	1	6	2	4	3
2	6	4	7	9	3	1	8	5
7	8	6	4	5	9	3	1	2
9	2	5	1	3	8	6	7	4
4	1	3	6	2	7	5	9	8

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CITY: 7.8L/100 KM

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HWY: 5.6L/100 KM
CITY: 8.7L/100 KM

Limited model shown

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HWY: 6.7L/100 KM
CITY: 10.1L/100 KM

Limited model shown

2013 SANTA FE

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$1,150 WITH 0%†

IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ — FINANCING FOR 24 MONTHS

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE $27,245♦

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